

The Avalon Media System

A Next-Generation Solution for Media
Management and Access

Jon Dunn

Mark Notess

IU Digital Library Brown Bag Series

27 March 2013

About Us

- Jon Dunn
 - Interim Assistant Dean for Library Technologies, Indiana University Bloomington Libraries
 - Project Director, Avalon
- Mark Notess
 - Head, Teaching & Learning Systems Development IU Bloomington Library Technologies
 - Co-Product Owner, Avalon

Agenda

- Project background and overview
- Project progress
- Demo
- Release 1 pilots at IU
- Plans beyond Release 1
- Questions and discussion

Project Objectives

Goal: Create an open source system to enable libraries and archives to provide online access to video and audio collections

- Digital audio/video management and delivery system, focused on needs of libraries and archives
- Follow an agile, open source development model
- Leverage existing technologies, where feasible
- Communicate and market the project broadly to increase awareness and grow the community of users and developers

Project Overview



- Funded in part by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Original name: **Variations on Video**
- Planning grant:
 - August 2010 – July 2011
- Implementation grant:
 - September 2011 – October 2014
- Partnership between libraries at Indiana University and Northwestern University

Motivators

- Demand from Variations implementers and other institutions
- Increased video digitization and creation at IU
- IU Media Preservation Initiative
- IU IT strategic plan: Empowering People
- No existing system serves needs of libraries
- History of involvement in open and community source software
- Desire to create a sustainable foundation for Variations development and maintenance

Development Team

Indiana University

- Jon Dunn, **project director**
- Chris Colvard, lead developer
- Phuong Dinh, developer
- Julie Hardesty, metadata analyst
- Brianna Marshall, project assistant
- Mark Notess, product owner/manager
- Nathan Rogers, developer

Northwestern University

- Stu Baker, **project director**
- Steve DiDomenico, scrum master
- Stefan Elnabli, metadata/preservation specialist
- Adam Hallett, developer
- Michael Klein, lead developer
- Karen Miller, metadata analyst
- Julie Rudder, product owner
- Claire Stewart, product owner/director
- Andrea Zielke, project assistant

Project Partners and Collaborators



What needs are we trying to serve?

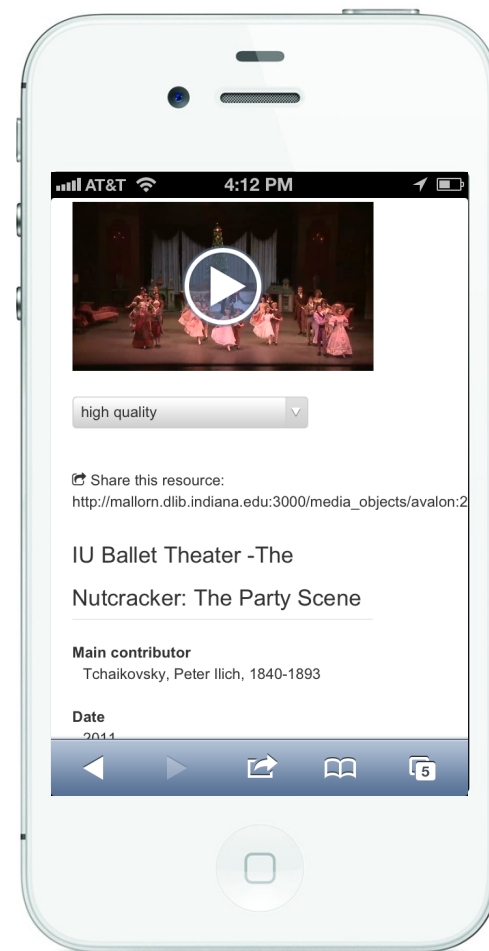
- Libraries and archives (and museums?)
- Wide variety of audio/video collections, uses, and access needs
 - Licensed educational video collections
 - Video/audio e-reserves
 - Archival collections
 - Open access collections
- Research and teaching & learning use
- Long-term management and access
- Tie-in with preservation

Existing Solutions Insufficient

- Institutional and digital library repositories
 - DSpace, Fedora, Digital Commons, ContentDM
- Web video services
 - YouTube, Vimeo
- Classroom lecture capture
 - Echo360, Mediasite, Opencast Matterhorn
- Online video environments
 - Kaltura, Brightcove
- Streaming servers
 - Flash Media Server, Real Helix, Wowza, Red5
- Digital asset management systems
 - OpenText, NetXposure

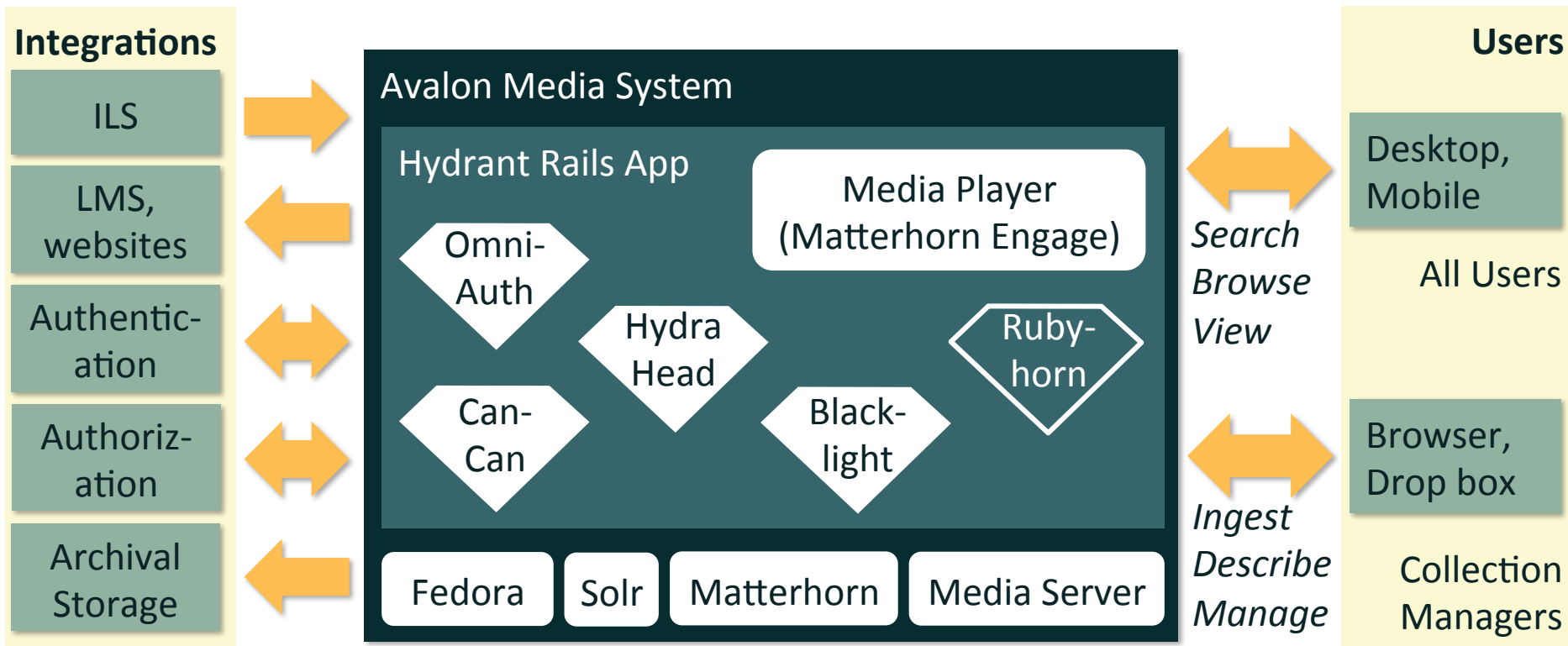
Release 1 (“any day now!”)

- The audio and video player work in the main browsers – Chrome, Firefox, Explorer, and Safari – and on mobile devices (iOS and Android).
- Integration with a variety of authentication systems are supported, along with management of group-based authorization.
- Content can be added using manual upload and description, or using the batch import facility (dropbox + spreadsheet).
- For fast and easy discovery, faceted search is based on the Blacklight discovery tool using MODS metadata.
- Ingest, management, and search functionality are built using [Hydra](#), an open source repository framework including Fedora, Solr and Blacklight
- Media player and processing based on Opencast [Matterhorn](#), another open source technology



Demo

Avalon Architecture



- Avalon code – consists of Hydrant Rails App and the Rubyhorn gem. Other pieces are leveraged.

R1 Pilots at IU (tentative)

- [IJCCR](#): IURTC project at this point
- John Dempsey films – Film Archive
- Course reserves – French films – Media and Reserve Services
- IU-produced content – JSoM opera productions – Cook Music Library
- Others under development

Beyond R1 (Partial List, Unprioritized)

- Authorization improvements & integrations
- Structural metadata for navigation
- Technical metadata
- Workflow & batch loading improvements
- Playlists and clip making
- Easy player embedding for other contexts, e.g., course management, websites, publishing sites
- Transcripts
- Publishing out to other systems
- More optimization for mobile
- Focused accessibility work
- Improvements based on pilots, user feedback, usability testing

Releases every three months

Participation

- Try out R1 (any day now!):
<http://www.avalonmediasystem.org/try-out-avalon>
- Download R1:
<http://www.avalonmediasystem.org/download>
- Read our blog:
<http://www.avalonmediasystem.org/blog>

Questions?

Learn More About Avalon

- **Website:** <http://avalonmediasystem.org/>
- **Listserv:** E-mail avalon-l-subscribe@indiana.edu to subscribe
- **Social media:**



@avalonmediasys



facebook.com/avalonmediasys

Or contact:

Jon Dunn: jwd@iu.edu

Mark Notess: mnotess@iu.edu